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it is believed that frequently in such outbreaks conclusions are arrived at too quickly when colon bacilli are found in small quantities in the water supply. The outbreak is then frequently attributed to the water supply, and no further investigation of the food supplies is made.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL.

By H. S. CUMMING, Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, Representative of the United States Public Health Service on the National Health Council.

The National Health Council is an organization composed of the nine leading national voluntary health agencies of this country, together with the United States Public Health Service as a conference member. The members are as follows:

American Public Health Association.

American Red Cross.

American Social Hygiene Association.

Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America.

Council on Health and Public Instruction of the American Medical Association.

National Child Health Council.

National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

National Tuberculosis Association.

United States Public Health Service (conference member).

The present officers of the council are as follows: Chairman, Dr. Livingston Farrand; vice chairman, Dr. L. K. Frankel; recording secretary, Dr. S. J. Crumbine; treasurer, Dr. W. F. Snow. Each member organization elects a representative and an alternate to serve on the Council. The Surgeon General represents the United States Public Health Service, and the alternate of the service is Surgeon J. D. Long. In addition to the member organizations listed above, the American Child Hygiene Association, the Child Health Organization of America, and the National Child Labor Committee are indirectly members through their affiliation with the National Child Health Council. Provision is made for additional members, including organizations national in scope whose primary interest is in health. It is probable that the council will experience a gradual growth.

The council was created on December 10, 1920, at a conference of a number of national voluntary health agencies held in Washington. The desirability of such a council had been discussed for many years, and several efforts, initiated by the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, and other agencies, had been

made to develop a similar council. Although these early attempts had not resulted in a working organization, they paved the way for later success. During the summer of 1920 a special coordination study was made by Dr. Donald B. Armstrong, under the direction of Dr. Livingston Farrand, Dr. Watson S. Rankin, and Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, and with the financial aid of the American Red Cross. A preliminary conference was called by Dr. Farrand in October, 1920, at which a temporary organization was formed; and then in December, as set forth above, the National Health Council was definitely organized.

The purpose of the council is to interrelate the work of the voluntary national health agencies, thereby enhancing opportunities for cooperative public service. It aims to assist in the betterment of health work in the United States. To this end, the following activities were approved at the organization meeting as legitimate functions for the council:

1. An information bureau of special service to the members.
2. A legislative bureau on Federal and State health legislation.
3. The coordination of health activities.
4. Periodic joint conferences.
5. A statistical bureau.
6. The development of educational health material.

Subsequent meetings have approved other activities, such as cooperation with a common service committee in charge of a joint renting arrangement for national health organizations in New York; the development of information for Federal agencies in the work for the proposed Federal Department of Public Welfare; a study of State health councils, etc.

In order to carry on these activities, offices have been established at 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, and at 411 Eighteenth Street NW., Washington, D. C. Financial resources have been supplied by the American Red Cross and by other agencies. Dr. Donald B. Armstrong has been appointed acting executive officer and is assisted by James A. Tobey as Washington representative and Lawrence Marcus as assistant in New York.

Biweekly summaries of national health legislation have been issued by the council since April, 1921, when Congress convened in special session. These valuable reports list all bills dealing with public health and abstract the more important ones. The first ten statements, covering the period from March 4 to August 4, 1921, have listed 100 bills which concern health and have discussed over 50 of them at length. The progress of all health legislation is also carefully followed and reported on. The summaries, which are mimeographed and average about 12 pages, are prepared in the Washington office. Although originally intended only for members, the demand for these

reports has been so great that copies are now being furnished to non-members of the council for 20 cents apiece, which is the cost price.

The development of the information service has resulted in the issuing of a monthly digest to council members. This bulletin is mimeographed and contains current news as to activities completed, new work started, new affiliations, staff changes, new publications, meetings, and various other items, which, for the first time, serve to keep the member organizations informed as to what the others are doing. The New York office has inaugurated a calendar of conference dates. A booklet giving complete data on each of the member organizations and the council itself has been printed. The Washington office has gathered and issued much data with regard to Federal reorganization. This material includes a chart and explanation of the health activities of the Government, a special report on the Division of Vital Statistics of the Bureau of the Census, a report on the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, and other data. Reports on other Government bureaus are now under way. The council has also gathered much general information, which is available to its members.

One of the most striking examples of practical coordination is the cooperative renting agreement in New York City. Acting with a common service committee, the council has been instrumental in bringing under one roof the headquarters of 14 important health agencies. Adjoining offices on the fifteenth and sixteenth floors of the new Penn Terminal Building, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, have been occupied since May, 1921, by the following organizations: American Public Health Association, American Social Hygiene Association, Bureau of Social Hygiene and Committee on Drug Addiction, Child Health Organization of America, Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board, Maternity Center Association, National Committee for Mental Hygiene, National Organization for Public Health Nursing (with the American Nurses' Association and the League for Nursing Education), National Probation Association, National Tuberculosis Association, New York Community Service, New York Diet Kitchen Association and Committee to Study Community Organization, the National Health Council (New York office), and Common Service Committee; and the United States Public Health Service (liaison office).

While zealously preserving the autonomy of each participating agency, the Common Service Committee is offering certain optional common services. These include general accounting, centralized telephone service, a joint library, conference and rest rooms, and concentration of mailing and various other office administrative functions which, if done separately, would be much less efficient and more expensive. A weekly news letter and a library bulletin are circulated among these offices.

The formation of the National Health Council marks an epoch in the advancement of public health in this country. By serving as an integrating force among autonomous, independent national health agencies, and by supporting and supplementing the duly constituted authorities, the field of usefulness of the council is far-reaching.

TWO YEARS OF FIGHTING VENEREAL DISEASES.¹

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND THE STATE BOARDS OF HEALTH.

The United States Public Health Service, in cooperation with the various State boards of health, has made very material progress in organizing a program for combating venereal diseases. The following brief summary of the accomplishments of the Service and the State boards of health is furnished for the information of persons interested in this work.

1. Medical Measures.

Four hundred and twenty-seven clinics have been established. The organization of venereal disease clinics throughout the United States is one of the most important accomplishments of the program for combating venereal diseases.

Two million one hundred and three thousand nine hundred treatments have been given to 185,200 clinic patients. The cost per treatment in the most efficient clinics is less than \$1 per person. These clinics have discharged as noninfectious 41,100 patients.

Social workers follow up the infected patients in order to protect other persons. Through these social workers patients who stop treatment are persuaded to return until cured. Members of the families of the patients are brought to the clinic for examination and treatment.

Twenty-eight thousand druggists have helped in checking the sale of patent remedies.

In 16 States it is unlawful to sell such remedies.

Of 20,000 newspapers and magazines, 19,800 have agreed to take out or keep out advertisements of quack doctors.

Fifteen thousand placards have been posted. The placard attracts diseased persons to clinics and also has educational value.

Sixty thousand seven hundred physicians have pledged their cooperation.

Seventy-three thousand nine hundred manuals of treatment have been given to physicians.

¹ From the Division of Venereal Diseases, United States Public Health Service.